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09/857,648	06/05/2001	Masao Mizutani	450101-02782	6351

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EXAMINER

BARQADLE, YASIN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/857,648

Applicant(s)

MIZUTANI ET AL.

Examiner

Yasin M Barqadle

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 50-79 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 50-79 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 50-79 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim 52, 53, 63, 66 67 and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara et al US. Patent 92846 in view of Kawai et al US. Patent (6678464).

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Claims 51, 54-62, 64-65, 68-76 and 78-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hara et al US. Patent No. (6292846).

As per claim 50, Hara et al teach an information processing device for carrying out give and receive of information to and from electronic equipment through a network [abstract and fig. 1]: operation state value obtaining means for obtaining an operation state value of said electronic equipment [fig. 9 and fig. 18, col. 2, lines 41-62 and col. 5, 6-10. see also col. 8, 64-66];

type information obtaining means for obtaining type information of said electronic equipment [fig. 7 and col. 6, lines 4-11 and col. 9, lines 3-20]; and

control enablement/disablement, wherein when control enablement is judged by said control enablement/disablement judging means, said electronic equipment is controlled [col. 4, lines 6-25 and col. 10, lines 41-55].

As per claim 54, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 50 wherein said network comprises an IEEE1394 bus [col. 8, lines 17-24].

As per claim 55, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 50 wherein said control enablement/disablement judging means judges

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enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of presence of absence of decision of an operation state value of said electronic equipment obtained by said operation value obtaining means [fig. 13 and fig. 18, col. 2, lines 41-62 and col. 5, 6-10. see also col. 8, 64-66].

As per claim 56, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 50 comprising decision means for deciding the presence or absence of possessory rights relative to said electronic equipment, wherein said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of the presence of absence of possessory rights of said electronic equipment decided by said means for judging the presence or absence or possessory rights [col. 15, lines 58 to col. 16, line 27].

As per claim 57, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 50 comprising means for storing change frequency within a fixed time of the operation state value of said electric equipment obtained by said means for obtaining operation state value, wherein when the type information of said electronic equipment obtained by said means for obtaining type information is recording and or reproducing equipment, said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on

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basis of change frequency stored by said means for storing change frequency [col. 6, lines 5-38 and col. 10, lines 56 to col. 11, line 21].

As per claim 58, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said electronic equipment includes at least a digital versatile disc device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape recorder, a compact disc device, and a minidisk device [fig. 1 and col. 8, lines 5-34].

As per claim 59, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said operation state value is a control state value of the disc device, a control state value of the tape device, or control state value of semiconductor device [col. 10, lines 11-65].

As per claim 60, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said operation state value is a counter value of a recording passing time, or a reproducing passage time counter value [col. 3, lines 1-7 and col. 9, lines 43 to col. 10, line 32].

As per claim 61, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said operation state value is a tape counter value, a frame counter value, a field value, a track value, a chapter number, recording passing time, or a

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reproducing passing time [col. 10, lines 1-31].

As per claim 62, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 50 wherein when the type information of said electronic equipment obtained by said means for obtaining type information is office selection equipment, said control enablement/disablement means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of an office number obtained by said means for obtaining operation state value [fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 4-11 and col. 9, lines 3-20].

As per claims 64, 78 and 79 Hara et al teach an information processing method, program and recording medium for carrying out give and receive of information to and from electronic equipment through a network [abstract and fig. 1]:

obtaining an operation state value of said electronic equipment [fig. 9 and fig. 18, col. 2, lines 41-62 and col. 5, 6-10. see also col. 8, 64-66];

obtaining type information of said electronic equipment [fig. 7 and col. 6, lines 4-11 and col. 9, lines 3-20]; and

judging enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment, wherein when control enablement is judged as a result of said control enablement/disablement judgment, said electronic equipment is controlled [col. 4, lines 6-25 and col. 10, lines 41-55].

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As per claim 68, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 64 wherein said network comprises an IEEE1394 bus [col. 8, lines 17-24].

As per claim 69, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 50 wherein said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of presence of absence of decision of an operation state value of said electronic equipment obtained by said operation value obtaining means [fig. 13 and fig. 18, col. 2, lines 41-62 and col. 5, 6-10. see also col. 8, 64-66].

As per claim 70, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 50 comprising decision means for deciding the presence or absence of possessory rights relative to said electronic equipment, wherein said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of the presence of absence of possessory rights of said electronic equipment decided by said means for judging the presence or absence or possessory rights [col. 15, lines 58 to col. 16, line 27].

As per claim 71, this claim has similar limitation as claim 57 above. Therefore, it is rejected with same rationale.

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As per claim 72 Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said electronic equipment includes at least a digital versatile disc device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape recorder, a compact disc device, and a minidisk device [fig. 1 and col. 8, lines 5-34].

As per claim 73, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said operation state value is a control state value of the disc device, a control state value of the tape device, or control state value of semiconductor device [col. 10, lines 11-65].

As per claim 74, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said operation state value is a counter value of a recording passing time, or a reproducing passage time counter value [col. 3, lines 1-7 and col. 9, lines 43 to col. 10, line 32].

As per claim 75, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said operation state value is a tape counter value, a frame counter value, a field value, a track value, a chapter number, recording passing time, or a reproducing passing time [col. 10, lines 1-31].

As per claim 76, Hara et al teach the information processing device according to claim 50 wherein when the type information of

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said electronic equipment obtained by said means for obtaining type information is office selection equipment, said control enablement/disablement means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of an office number obtained by said means for obtaining operation state value [fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 4-11 and col. 9, lines 3-20].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 52, 53, 63, 66 67 and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara et al US. Patent 92846 in view of Kawai et al US. Patent (6678464).

as per claims 52 and 66, although Hara shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he does not explicitly show ON/OFF information of a power supply of electronic equipment.

Nonetheless, this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Hara, as evidenced by Kawai et al USPN. (6678464).

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In analogous art, Kawai et al whose invention is about controlling digital information of a network device, disclose detecting ON/OFF information of a power supply of an electronic equipment [Col. 8, lines 39-50]. Giving the teaching of Kawai et al, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and the advantage of modifying Hara by employing the system of Kawai et al so that equipment initialization and configuration changes are easily detected [Col. 8, lines 39-50].

As per claim 53 and 67, Kawai et al teach the invention comprising alarming signal producing display means for producing a warning signal when control disablement is judged by said control enablement/disablement judging means to display said warning signal [col. 17, lines 1-18].

As per claim 63 and 77, Kawai et al teach the invention wherein the type information of said electronic equipment obtained by said means for obtaining type information is a TV set, a tuner, a radio set, or set top box [fig. 1].

Conclusion

The prior made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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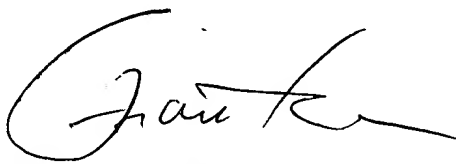
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin Barqadle whose telephone number is 703-305-5971. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 703-305-4792. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Yasin Barqadle

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FRANK J. BEAN
PRIN INER